

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 009545

70

ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 MC-02 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /043 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:MFPASZTALANIEC:CW

APPROVED BY PM/ISO:GTCHURCHILL

EUR/NE - S WORREL (SUBS)

AF/I - J ANDEREGG

INR/DDC - P HILBURN

S/PRS J TRATTNER (SUBS)

OASD/ISA/EUR-NATO -J TIMBERLAKE

----- 101384

O R 142329Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009545

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, US, UK, PFOR

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE - P-3 OPERATIONS
FROM ASCENSION ISLAND

1. BRITISH EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE, MR. JOSEPH MILLINGTON,
PROVIDED THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED BRITISH
CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE. QUOTE:

NO STATEMENT WILL BE MADE IN LONDON ABOUT THE PRESENCE
OF THESE AIRCRAFT. IF IN DUE COURSE THEIR PRESENCE
BECOMES KNOWN, NEWS DEPARTMENT WILL SAY UNATTRIBUTABLY,
AND ONLY IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, THAT THESE AIRCRAFT
ARE STATIONED THERE FOR MARITIME RECONNAISSANCE PURPOSES
OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS, ADDING IF PRESSED THAT THEIR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 009545

PRESENCE IS CONCERNED WITH SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY IN THE

SOUTH ATLANTIC AND THAT WE REGARD SURVEILLANCE IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AS A PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE ACTIVITY. UNQUOTE.

2. US CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE WAS APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY AND IS GIVEN BELOW: QUOTE:

Q: HOW MANY P-3S ARE NOW AT ASCENSION?

A: SIX.

Q: ARE THEY WATCHING THE RUSSIAN SHIPS OFF ANGOLA?

A: YES. WE HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING PERIODIC AERIAL SURVEILLANCE BY UNARMED US NAVAL RECONNAISSANCE AIR-CRAFT OF SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY IN THE ATLANTIC OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS OFF THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA. SUCH SURVEILLANCE IS A NORMAL PART OF OUR MILITARY OPERATIONS.

Q: DID YOU RECEIVE AUTHORITY TO USE THE FACILITY OF ASCENSION FROM THE BRITISH?

A: THE FACILITY IS BEING USED UNDER MUTUALLY AGREED ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE UK. UNQUOTE.

3. THERE APPEAR TO BE NO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE US AND BRITISH PROPOSALS. HOWEVER, REQUEST EMBASSY OBTAIN BRITISH CONCURRENCE IN US PROPOSED Q'S AND A'S WHICH WILL BE USED ON AN IF-ASKED BASIS ONLY. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE009545
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MFPASZTALANIEC:CW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760014-0533
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760157/aaaabyfx.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE - P-3 OPERATIONS FROM ASCENSION ISLAND
TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, US, UK, XN
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006